



GOLD BUTTERFLY **PUBLIC MEETING NOTES**

Where: Corvallis High School Library
Date: April 18, 2017

Time: 1830-2000

Notes Taken by: Marilyn Wildey and Sara Grove

Attendees: Stephen Owens, Charles McRae, Bruce Bourne, Kirk Thompson, Van Keele, Jason Hollis, Fred Weisbecker, David and Irina Doering, Ruth Herbert, Ranay Borniger, Michael Hoyt, Erik Hoover, Taylor Orr, Kim Strain, Maggie Carmona, Jim Miller, Chris Hoffman, Mark Hollis

Forest Service Representatives: Tami Sabol, Rob Gump, Amy Fox, Marilyn Wildey, Sara Grove, Meghan Oswalt, Julie King

SUMMARY

The Forest Service gave a PowerPoint presentation of the broad overview of the Gold Butterfly project. Existing resource conditions, the purpose and need for the project, and preliminary proposed action were discussed. The Forest Service described the authorities in the Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA) that authorize the project and outlined roles and responsibilities and the sideboards of the collaborative process. The Forest Service provided a tentative timeline that would guide the analysis process and announced the upcoming Open House scheduled for Wednesday, May 17 at 6:30pm. The meeting was then opened up for questions.

Main Points of the Presentation

- Early opportunities for public to engage with the analysis
 - ◆ Open house (May 17 @ 6:30pm)
 - ◆ Field trips (late June)
 - ◆ Scoping (formal comment period)
 - ◆ Workshop(s)
- Purpose and Need
 - ◆ Improve landscape resilience to disturbances (such as insects, disease, and fire) by modifying forest structure and composition, and fuels
 - ◆ Provide timber products and related jobs
 - ◆ Reduce erosion sources in Willow Creek and Burnt Fork of the Bitterroot River watersheds to improve water quality and bull trout habitat
 - ◆ Restore or improve key habitats of meadows, aspen, and whitebark pine
- Preliminary Proposed Action
 - ◆ Harvest, thin, and prescribe burn units with Douglas-fir bark beetle, mountain pine beetle, western spruce budworm, and dwarf mistletoe
 - ◆ Harvest, thin, and prescribe burn units in key habitats



- To remove conifers colonizing natural meadows
 - To remove conifers from aspen clones to rejuvenate the clones
 - Improve growing conditions for whitebark pine
- ◆ Relocate two trailheads to reduce sedimentation from their existing location
- ◆ Construct specified and temporary roads to support timber removal from the forest
- ◆ Upgrade current road conditions
- ◆ Relocate short sections of road that encroach and impact streams and construct alternate routes if possible
- ◆ Implement decisions made in the Travel Plan within the project area, especially where there are impacts to streams.
- Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA)
 - ◆ Most of the treatment area is in the Governor's designation for part of an insect and disease treatment program
 - ◆ Titles I and VI apply to treatment areas in the project area
 - ◆ Using HFRA allows the Forest Service to apply for implementation grants
 - ◆ Fosters collaboration through the analysis
- Collaboration Process for the Gold Butterfly project
 - ◆ Early engagement of interested and affected parties
 - ◆ Involves multiple perspectives in project development, analysis, and implementation
 - ◆ Open, and respectful discussions of resource values, management, and outcomes
 - ◆ Focused on achieving the project purpose and need with a final decision in November of 2018
 - ◆ The Responsible Official is seeking local knowledge of the project area to consider in the analysis, and recommendations or solutions for resolving issues that meet the purpose and need and corresponding rationale. The Responsible Official equitably values insights from each participating individual and organization and will not rely solely on any single individual or group perspective. She is not seeking a consensus decision or recommendation from those who choose to participate in the collaborative process
- See the tentative timeline in the PowerPoint presentation or the meeting handout for the anticipated course of the analysis.

Questions and Answers

Corvallis Sewer District is concerned about water quality in the aquifer beneath Corvallis and how it might be affected by the proposed project. Requests careful consideration of the use of any chemicals during implementation of the project.

Will road work be done before timber haul?

Roads adjacent to streams will be brought up to best management practices (BMPs) before timber haul.

Double Fork Ranch is adjacent to National Forest. The ranch has successfully completed have treatments on their land to reduce insect and disease infestations for both dwarf mistletoe and western spruce budworm. They are happy the Forest Service is considering doing the same. They shared that they experience better results with cut-to-length yarding than whole tree yarding with reducing the spread of mistletoe.

A brief discussion ensued with attendees on the trade-offs between the two systems. The Forest Service (FS) will specify the method of yarding if necessary for the specific area being treated and provide the rationale for the choice of yarding method. Treatment of residual slash after harvest will be described in the analysis.

Will previously burned areas be treated?

The FS interpreted this question to be referring to the GoldOne fire in 2003 and responded that there were no plans to salvage timber in that area because it is in the Stoney Mountain Inventoried Roadless Area. There are no plans to salvage timber in the Dominic Point fire either.

Will the FS target merchantable timber only or will sub-merchantable timber be removed also?

The FS will remove merchantable and sub-merchantable timber depending on site conditions, stand structure and composition, and economic feasibility.

Which trailheads would be moved?

Willow Creek trailhead would be moved to the junction of Forest Road 969 and Gold Creek trailhead would be moved to the Gold Creek campground.

Will Gold Creek campground be improved?

The FS is planning to remove hazard trees and make some campground improvements

The Backcountry Horseman would like to be involved with the campground improvements and would like to improve facilities for horses.

Where would road decommissioning occur?

Not all road decommissioning has been determined but a portion of the road in Butterfly Creek would be maintained as a trail and the road re-routed away from the creek.

Will the FS open up gated areas for firewood?

The Bear Trap area was opened last year for a short period before it was closed because of the Roaring Lion fire. The current plan is to re-open the area again this summer.

Is any work proposed on the Gleason Lake trail?

The FS has no proposals for the Gleason Lake trail at this time.

How many temporary roads or other miles of road would be needed for this project?

The FS did not have that information available for the meeting. Field work continues this season. A preliminary estimate will be provided at the upcoming Open House. However, this information may change based on field verification by resource specialists.

Has old growth mapping been completed?

Some work has been completed and resource specialists will continue to collect data this summer.

Is it the intent that the haul route will be Willow Creek Road?

Yes. However, the FS is working with several adjacent landowners for potential rights-of-way easements but most of the haul is likely to come down Willow Creek Road.

Are the airplane flights over the area related to the project?

No. After some discussion within the group it was determined that the flights were Neptune slurry bombers making practice runs ahead of fire season.

What percentage of the area is in Roadless, and the WUI?

The Stoney Mountain Inventoried Roadless Area is in the project area but little treatment is proposed within it. The WUI is about 6,600 acres and the insect and disease designation area is about 9,500 acres. The project area is about 55,000 acres.

What roads would be used to access the Roadless area?

The 1348 road is the only road that is adjacent to the roadless area. No roads are proposed in the roadless area.

Where will the open houses be?

The FS hasn't picked a venue yet but will post information on our website and send out notices to individuals who have requested information on the project.

How much do you expect traffic will increase on Willow Creek road? Improving the road will make it easier for people to access the area and some people don't follow rules.

The FS expects improving the road would increase public traffic as well as traffic from administrative use for surveys and collecting data, contractors, loggers, contract administrators, and log trucks. This is a connected action that will be part of the analysis.